

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 09694 131802Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 NASA-01
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 DHA-02 MCT-01 /103 W
-----131805Z 051975 /40

O R 131722Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4966
INFO AMEMBASSY VICTORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09694

E. O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EXO
SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES: MANCHAM ON THE COUP

1. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES BY PHONE
WITH JIMMY MANCHAM SINCE NEWS OF THE SEYCHELLES COUP
BROKE HERE EARLY THIS A.M. MANCHAM IS DISTRESSED AND
STILL TRYING TO SORT OUT THE FACTS AND HIS OWN REACTIONS.
HE WILL MEET WITH THE PRESS SOMETIME TODAY. IN
CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICER (WHO HAS KNOWN
MANCHAM FOR SEVERAL YEARS) THE EX-PRESIDENT MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:
2. MANCHAM HAS TRIED TO KEEP SEYCHELLES OUT OF BIG
POWER POLITICS BUT THE WEST HAS LET HIM DOWN. THE WEST'S
WEAK SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA INVITED THE LEFT

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WING COUP. THE SOVIETS ARE MOVING IN AFRICA AND THE
INDIAN OCEAN ALMOST AT WILL BECAUSE THE US LACKS RESOLVE.
"THE BASTARDS OPENED THEIR EMBASSY IN VICTORIA TWO
DAYS BEFORE I LEFT."

3. THE MANCHAM GOVERNMENT WAS DEMOCRATICALLY AND
CONSTITUTIONALLY ELECTED. UNLESS AMERICA SPEAKS FORCE-

FULLY AGAINST THE COUP IT WILL MAKE A MOCKERY OF ITS
DEVOTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. MANCHAM WENT ALONG WITH A COALITION GOVERNMENT AT
THE URGING OF THE BRITISH. HE HAS NOW BEEN DOUBLE
CROSSED BY THEM AND BY RENE'.

5. THE COUP FORCES WILL ONLY HAVE CONTROL OF MAHE' ISLAND
MANCHAM MAY ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AND HIS
GOVERNMENT IN ONE OF THE OTHER ISLANDS. (HE MENTIONED
ALDABRA OR, ON SECOND THOUQHT PRASLIN). HE WILL LOOK
TO THE SUDAN AND PERHAPS SAUDI ARABIA FOR ASSISTANCE.

6. COMMENT: BY THE CLOSE OF THE LAST CONVERSATION
MANCHAM SEEMS AT LEAST OPEN TO THE ARGUMENT THAT HIS
ATTENTION IS MISPLACED IF HE SEEKS TO BLAME THE US FOR
THE COUP. HIS REMARKS ABOUT AN OUTER-ISLAND GOVERNMENT
HAD MORE THE TONE OF DESPERATION THAN DETERMINATION.
MANCHAM'S LAST COMMENT, ACCCOMPANIED BY IRONIC LAUGHTER,
WAS, "I MAY HAVE TO ASK FOR ASYLUM IN THE US. MAYBE I
CAN GO INTO THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BUSINESS."

BREWSTER

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